



Department of Justice

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**MONTGOMERY FELON SENT TO FEDERAL PRISON FOR 37 MONTHS FOR
POSSESSING FIREARM**

Montgomery, Alabama — Tawaine McCullough, age 26, of Montgomery, Alabama, was sentenced in federal district court on January 26, 2009, to 37 months in federal prison for being a felon in possession of a firearm, U.S. Attorney Leura G. Canary announced today. McCullough was also sentenced to serve three years of supervised release under the supervision of a federal probation officer after his release from prison.

McCullough pled guilty to possessing a .45 caliber pistol on February 22, 2008, in Montgomery. The pistol was found after members of the Montgomery Police Department's Crime Reduction Team attempted to conduct a traffic stop of McCullough's vehicle. After a short vehicle pursuit, McCullough crashed the vehicle into a wall and then ran away on foot. He was seen discarding the gun while he ran. He was then apprehended and arrested. McCullough was previously convicted of robbery, making him a felon who is prohibited under federal law from possessing a firearm.

The case was investigated as part of the Department of Justice's Project Safe Neighborhoods and the Middle District of Alabama's Alabama ICE (Isolating the Criminal Element) programs, aimed at preventing violent crime and the illegal possession of firearms. According to United States Attorney Leura G. Canary, "Our community is safer when convicted

felons with violent histories know they cannot possess firearms in the Middle District of Alabama, because if they are caught, they will go to federal prison where there is no parole.”

This case was investigated through the joint efforts of the Montgomery Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (“ATF”). The case was prosecuted by Assistant U. S. Attorney Matthew Shepherd.